

Remarks/Arguments:

In response to the restriction requirement, Applicants elect Group 1 with traverse. Applicants would like to thank Examiner Bertagna for taking the time to speak with me and Christine McCormack this morning.

Following entry of the above amendment, claims 1-8, 10-18 and 20 are pending, claims 9 and 19 having been canceled and claims 1, 7, 11, and 17 having been amended. Support for the amendment of claims 1 and 11 can be found on page 3, lines 30-31 and page 4, lines 2-4. Claims 7 and 17 have been amended to remove reference to SEQ ID NOs:2-8. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 11 so that the claims are novel over the prior art of Sivaraja et al. (US 6,043,038). See below for a discussion of the amendment. This amendment means that the claims are no longer anticipated by Sivaraja et al. and thus the claims no longer lack a special technical feature that links them over the prior art. Applicants have elected Group 1 but hope that should the Examiner find that Group 1 is novel, the Examiner will search the remaining groups in turn, and on finding novelty, rejoin the groups.

Applicants have amended the claims in view of Sivaraja et al. (US6,043,038). Claims 1 and 11 have been amended to limit the scope to wherein the detecting step requires no further steps of separating the RNA product from the incubated reaction mix; thus the detection steps of these claims do not require the separation of the RNA reaction product from the reaction mix prior to detection of the reaction product. Sivaraja et al. describe high throughput methods for measuring nucleic acid primase activity by incubating together in a reaction mix a DNA primase, a nucleic acid template and ribonucleotide triphosphates and then detecting formation of the resulting DNA-RNA hybrid product by separating or removing the reaction mix components and any uncaptured signal generating components from the formed DNA-RNA product. Accordingly the invention as claimed in amended claims 1 and claim 11, and all dependent claims are novel over Sivaraja et al. Reconsideration is requested.

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Reply to Office Action of 05/24/2007

Applicants believe the application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Although Applicants believe no fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees or credit any overpayment to deposit account No. 50-3231, referencing Attorney Docket No. 100998-1P US.

A petition for a two-month extension of time is being filed herewith, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees or credit any overpayment to deposit account No. 50-3231, referencing Attorney Docket No. 100998-1P US.

Respectfully submitted,

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